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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT: Attitude of the Burma Communist Party and the Communist Party (Burma) Toward the Current General Elections in Burma

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Attitude of the Burma Communist Party (BCP)

1. The BCP has issued a secret directive to its branches throughout the country entitled Our Attitude in Connection with the General Elections. The instructions point out that the elections are to be held under an imperialist-capitalist-landlord regime which is incapable of fulfilling the aspirations of the people. The Party's duty in connection with the elections is twofold. On the one hand, the elections must be attacked by widespread propaganda which will reveal to the people the fact that they constitute a maneuver to stabilize imperialist-capitalist-landlordism in Burma and an effort to side-track the revolutionary tendencies among the people. On the other hand, in those areas dominated by Thakin NU's military forces in which the Party cannot prevent the holding of the elections, the elections themselves must be exploited in the best interests of the revolution.¹
2. The following methods are to be employed:
 - a. Party members and sympathizers who have not had to go underground must contest the elections.
 - b. Support must be given to organizations contesting the elections which are prepared to accept the leadership of a party whose program is similar to that of the BCP.²

By these means the BCP hopes to get Party men into Parliament. At the same time efforts will be made to inspire various sympathetic organizations to agitate for the unconditional release of persons detained under Section 5 of the Public Order Preservation Act and for the withdrawal of armed forces from all areas in which elections are being held.³

Attitude of the Communist Party (Burma) (CP(B))

3. The question of Party policy during the current general elections was recently discussed by the CP(B). In view of the fact that a majority of the general public favor the elections the CP(B), although opposed to the elections in principle, have decided to suspend all offensive operations during the

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elections. This attitude is apparently aimed at persuading the public that the CP(B) is in favor of the elections, and would itself have contested had the Government acceded to its demands to lift the ban on the Party.

4. The CP(B) proposed to support candidates put up by the Burma Workers and Peasants Party (BWPP) wherever the latter was opposed to candidates of the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League (AFPFL).⁴

25X1A1. [REDACTED] Comment. Elections were held in eighty-two constituencies on 12 and 19 June in areas under Government control. No candidates have been identified as having been strongly pro-BCP. The BWPP have thirty candidates contesting. With approximately half of the returns in, the BWPP have won three seats.

25X1X2. [REDACTED] Comment. An independent report states that a secret understanding has been reached between the BCP and the BWPP, and that the BCP has instructed its district organizations concerned to support BWPP candidates. There has, however, been no confirmation that an understanding has been reached between the two parties although it is known that the BCP has nominated representatives to open negotiations.

25X1X. [REDACTED] Comment. A possible ulterior motive in inspiring agitation for the withdrawal of armed forces from areas in which elections are to be held is to leave the way free for an offensive by People's Democratic Front (PDF) insurgents. The theme is a popular one, for all of the opposition parties, whether "rightist or leftist", have been alleging that the Government party, the AFPFL, will use the armed forces at their disposal, both regular and irregular, to influence the elections in their favor.

25X1X. [REDACTED] Comment. Although the BCP and the CP(B) have agreed to support BWPP candidates, it is evident that there has been no coordination in the respective policies. CP(B) policy harks back to their propaganda campaign during the first half of 1950, when they attempted to persuade the Government to lift the ban on the Party and permit it to contest elections. This policy found no favor with the BCP. This point of difference in policy follows on Thakin SOE's recent criticism of the BCP's revolutionary policy and disciplinary methods. Should this divergence of views increase, the present collaboration between the two parties in military operations is likely to cease.

25X1A [REDACTED] Comment. Thakin SOE's criticisms of BCP policy have been reported in [REDACTED]

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